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SUBJECT Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief

Number of Pages 53

Date 3/31/2006

MESSAGE

This fax communication contains:

1. one copy of a Fax Transmittal Form; and
2. three copies of the Response to the Notice of Non-compliant Appeal Brief.

Volel

MAR 31 2006

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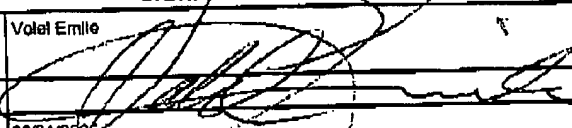
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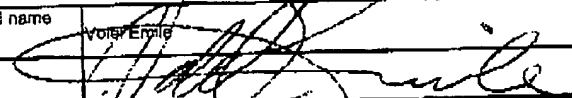
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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) | Application Number | 02/988,388 |
| | Filing Date | 11/15/2001 |
| | First Named Inventor | Brown et al. |
| | Art Unit | 2176 |
| | Examiner Name | Malkhanh Nguyen |
| | Attorney Docket Number | AUS920010875U31 |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission | | |

| ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply) | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): |
| Remarks Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief. | | |

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Firm or individual name | Volei Emile |
| Signature |  |
| Date | 03/31/2006 |

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

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MAR 31 2006

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of: :
Brown et al. :
Serial No: 09/998,386 : Before the Examiner:
 : Malkhanh Nguyen
Filed: 11/13/2001 : Group Art Unit: 2176
 :
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD : Confirmation No.: 7328
OF HIGHLIGHTING LINKS IN A :
WEB PAGE :

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is a Response to a Notice of Non-compliant Appeal
Brief dated March 06, 2006.

AUS920010875US1

Page 1 of 17

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Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

BRIEF FOR APPLICANTS - APPELLANTS

(I)

Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), the assignee.

(II)

Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no other appeals or interferences known to appellants, appellants' representative or assignee, which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(III)

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 3 - 10, 12, 14 - 21, 23, 25 - 32, 34, 36 - 43 and 45 have been finally rejected in an Office Action dated August 16, 2005. All the rejected claims are being appealed.

(IV)

Status of Amendment

No amendment was filed subsequent to the final rejection.

(V)

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The present invention, as claimed in independent claims 1 and 45 (method claims), 12 (a computer program product claim), 23 (an apparatus claim), 34 (a computer

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

system claim), allows a user to make links embedded in a Web page clearly recognizable. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, when a user is unable to clearly recognize links embedded in a Web document, the user may have the links highlighted by issuing a command (see page 10, lines 26, to page 11, line 9 and page 11, lines 17 - 23 see also Fig. 4 (i.e., Highlight Links Button 420) and Fig. 6).

In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, when a user is unable to clearly recognize links embedded in a Web document, the user may have the links highlighted by issuing a command. In this case, the links are highlighted by duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in another area (page 11, lines 24 - 27 and Fig. 6).

Note that the step-plus functions of Claims 1 and 45 and the means-plus functions of Claim 23 are the process steps that occur when a user asserts Highlight Links Button 420 and the processor of the system executes the processes in Figs. 6 and 7.

(VI)

Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

(1) Whether independent Claims 1, 12, 23, 34 and 45 were properly rejected under 102(b) as being anticipated by Nielsen, and (2) whether dependent Claims 9, 20, 31 and 42 were properly rejected under 103 as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of Kimmel et al.

AUS920010875US1

Page 3 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

(VII)

Arguments**Whether independent Claims 1, 12, 23, 34 and 45 were properly rejected under 102(b) as being anticipated by Nielsen**

In considering a Section 102 rejection, all the elements of the claimed invention must be disclosed in a single item of prior art in the form literally defined in the claim. *Jamesbury Corp. v. Lilton Indus. Products*, 736 F.2d 1556, 225 USPQ 253 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *Atlas Powder Co. v. Dupont*, 750 F.2d 1569, 224 USPQ 409 (Fed. Cir. 1984); *American Hospital Supply v. Travenol Labs.*, 743 F.2d 1, 223 USPQ 577 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Nielsen purports to provide a scheme to determine whether or not Web pages represented by links embedded in a displayed document are accessible before a user attempts to access the pages. To do so, Nielsen teaches that access to each Web page represented by an embedded link in a displayed Web document is automatically attempted as soon as the page is displayed. If there is no response within a certain period of time after an access has been attempted, then it is assumed that the Web page is inaccessible. Consequently, the appearance of the link is changed to alert the user that the Web page is inaccessible at the present time. The presumption is that an alerted user will not waste time attempting to access an inaccessible page.

But, Nielsen does not teach, show or suggest the step of highlighting links that are not easily identifiable in a displayed Web document upon user command as claimed.

AUS920010875US1

Page 4 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

The Examiner stated that Nielsen discloses such step in the following passage: "when the user selects a particular text link anchor with mouse 44, the browsing system responds by attempting to retrieve the page pointed to by the link anchor ... all of the link anchor 202 are shown as underlined text; col. 3, lines 41 - 48" (see first paragraph on page 3 of the Office Action).

As far as Applicants can understand, the quoted passage merely states that when a link is asserted, an attempt is made to access the Web page referred to by the link. This is generally how one accesses a Web page from an embedded link in a displayed document.

The quoted passage further states that links in a displayed Web document are displayed as underlined text. This is one of the customary manners of displaying embedded links in a document.

Applicants do not see how the teachings in the quoted passage are going to help a user who has problems identifying links that are embedded in a displayed document from regular underlined passages in the document, for example. By contrast, the present invention allows a user to issue a command and all the embedded links in the document are highlighted allowing the user to distinguish the links from regular underlined passages in the document.

Hence, Applicants submit that the independent claims (i.e., Claims 1, 12, 23, 34 and 46), as well as their dependent claims, which all incorporate the step mentioned above, are not anticipated by Nielsen.

AUS920010875US1

Page 5 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

whether dependent Claims 9, 20, 31 and 42 were properly rejected under 103 as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of Kimmel et al.

Notwithstanding the fact that the independent claims are not anticipated by Nielsen, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 9, 10, 20, 21, 31, 32, 42 and 43 are patentable over Nielsen in view of Kimmel et al.

It is well settled that in considering a Section §103 rejection, the subject matter of the claim "as a whole" must be considered and analyzed. In the analysis, it is necessary that the scope and contents of the prior art and differences between the art and the claimed invention be determined. *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1 (1966).

Kimmel et al. teach a method for parallel selection of URL's. In accordance with the teachings of Kimmel et al., when a web page containing embedded links is displayed, a user may select a plurality of these embedded links for concurrent processing. Concurrent processing in this case includes concurrently displaying pages associated with the selected links in a plurality of respective browser windows; concurrently printing pages associated with the selected links; or concurrently downloading pages associated with the selected links.

However, Kimmel et al. do not teach the step of duplicating links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area as claimed by the Examiner.

Thus, even if Nielsen were to teach the steps alleged by the Examiner, combining the teachings of Nielsen with those of Kimmel et al., would not teach the limitations in Claim 9, for example. Since Claims 20, 31 and 42 include

AUS920010875US1

Page 6 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

the limitations of claim 9, Applicants submit that they, along with their dependent claims, should be allowable as well.

As the references, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show or suggest the claimed invention, Applicants submit that all the pending claims in the Application are allowable. Hence, Applicants respectfully request allowance and passage no issue of the claims in the application.

Respectfully Submitted

By: 

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Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 39,969
(512) 306-7969

AUS920010875US1

Page 7 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

(VIII)

Claims Appendix

1. (Previously presented) A method of making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising the steps of:

displaying the Web document; and

upon user command, highlighting the links.

2. Canceled.

3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of having the links flash.

4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of displaying the links in a different color.

5. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of displaying the links using a larger font.

6. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of displaying the links using a different font.

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

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7. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of emboldening the links.
8. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of enlarging the font used to display the links including the links target area.
9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein when a duplicated link is selected, its corresponding link in the Web document flashes or is emboldened or is displayed in a different color or is displayed using a different font or a larger font.
11. Canceled.
12. (Previously presented) A computer program product on a computer readable medium for making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising:

code means for displaying the Web document; and

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

code means for highlighting the links upon user command.

13. Canceled.

14. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for having the links flash.

15. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for displaying the links in a different color.

16. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for displaying the links using a larger font.

17. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for displaying the links using a different font.

18. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for emboldening the links.

19. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

code means for enlarging the font used to display the links including the links' target area.

20. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area.

21. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 20 wherein when a duplicated link is selected, its corresponding link in the Web document flashes or is emboldened or is displayed in a different color or is displayed using a different font or a larger font.

22. Canceled.

23. (Previously presented) An apparatus for making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising:

means for displaying the Web document; and

means for highlighting the links upon user command.

24. Canceled.

25. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for having the links flash.

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

26. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for displaying the links in a different color.
27. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for displaying the links using a larger font.
28. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for displaying the links using a different font.
29. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for emboldening the links.
30. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for enlarging the font used to display the links including the links larger area.
31. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area.
32. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 31 wherein when a duplicated link is selected, its corresponding link in the Web document flashes or is emboldened or is

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

displayed in a different color or is displayed using a different font or a larger font.

33. Canceled.

34. (Previously presented) A computer system for making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising:

at least one memory device for storing code data; and

at least one processor for processing the code data for displaying the Web document and for highlighting the links upon user command.

35. Canceled.

36. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes having the links flash.

37. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes displaying the links in a different color.

38. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes displaying the links using a larger font.

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

39. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes displaying the links using a different font.
40. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes emboldening the links.
41. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes enlarging the font used to display the links including the links target area.
42. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area.
43. (Original) The computer system of Claim 42 wherein when a duplicated link is selected, its corresponding link in the Web document flashes or is emboldened or is displayed in a different color or is displayed using a different font or a larger font.
44. Canceled.
45. (Previously presented) A method of making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising the steps of:

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

displaying the Web document in a browser, the Web document having a plurality of links displayed each in a target area;

enabling user command to highlight the links by asserting an icon in the browser, the icon being able to toggle on to highlight the links and to toggle off to de-highlight the links; and

enlarging the plurality of links and the target areas upon user command to highlight the plurality of the links, the user command including toggling on the icon.

AUS920010875US1

Page 15 of 17

Friday, March 31, 2006 4:44 PM

Volet Emile, Esq. 512 306 0240

p.18

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

(EX)

Evidence Appendix

None.

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AUS920010875US1

Page 16 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliance Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

(X)

Related Proceedings Appendix

None.

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AUS920010875US1

Page 17 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of: :
Brown et al. :
Serial No: 09/998,386 : Before the Examiner:
 : Maikhanh Nguyen
Filed: 11/13/2001 : Group Art Unit: 2176
 :
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD : Confirmation No.: 7328
OF HIGHLIGHTING LINKS IN A :
WEB PAGE :

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF

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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Brief dated March 06, 2006.

AUS920010875US1

Page 1 of 17

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Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

BRIEF FOR APPLICANTS - APPELLANTS

(I)

Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), the assignee.

(II)

Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no other appeals or interferences known to appellants, appellants' representative or assignee, which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

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Status of Claims

Claims 1, 3 - 10, 12, 14 - 21, 23, 25 - 32, 34, 36 - 43 and 45 have been finally rejected in an Office Action dated August 16, 2005. All the rejected claims are being appealed.

(IV)

Status of Amendment

No amendment was filed subsequent to the final rejection.

(V)

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The present invention, as claimed in independent claims 1 and 45 (method claims), 12 (a computer program product claim), 23 (an apparatus claim), 34 (a computer

AUS920010875US1

Page 2 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

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system claim), allows a user to make links embedded in a Web page clearly recognizable. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, when a user is unable to clearly recognize links embedded in a Web document, the user may have the links highlighted by issuing a command (see page 10, lines 26, to page 11, line 9 and page 11, lines 17 - 23 see also Fig. 4 (i.e., highlight links button 420) and Fig. 6).

In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, when a user is unable to clearly recognize links embedded in a Web document, the user may have the links highlighted by issuing a command. In this case, the links are highlighted by duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in another area (page 11, lines 24 - 27 and Fig. 6).

Note that the step-plus functions of Claims 1 and 45 and the means-plus functions of Claim 23 are the process steps that occur when a user asserts highlight links button 420 and the processor of the system executes the processes in Figs. 6 and 7.

(VI)

Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

(1) Whether independent Claims 1, 12, 23, 34 and 45 were properly rejected under 102(b) as being anticipated by Nielsen, and (2) whether dependent Claims 9, 20, 31 and 42 were properly rejected under 103 as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of Kimmel et al.

AUS920010875US1

Page 3 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

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(VII)

Arguments

**Whether independent Claims 1, 12, 23, 34 and 45 were
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In considering a Section 102 rejection, all the elements of the claimed invention must be disclosed in a single item of prior art in the form literally defined in the claim. *Jamesbury Corp. v. Litton Indus. Products*, 736 F.2d 1556, 225 USPQ 253 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *Atlas Powder Co. v. Dupont*, 730 F.2d 1569, 224 USPQ 409 (Fed. Cir. 1984); *American Hospital Supply v. Travenol Labs.*, 743 F.2d 1, 223 USPQ 577 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

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But, Nielsen does not teach, show or suggest the step of highlighting links that are not easily identifiable in a displayed Web document upon user command as claimed.

AUS920010875US1

Page 4 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

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Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

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As far as Applicants can understand, the quoted passage merely states that when a link is asserted, an attempt is made to access the Web page referred to by the link. This is generally how one accesses a Web page from an embedded link in a displayed document.

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Applicants do not see how the teachings in the quoted passage are going to help a user who has problems identifying links that are embedded in a displayed document from regular underlined passages in the document, for example. By contrast, the present invention allows a user to issue a command and all the embedded links in the document are highlighted allowing the user to distinguish the links from regular underlined passages in the document.

Hence, Applicants submit that the independent claims (i.e., Claims 1, 12, 23, 34 and 46), as well as their dependent claims, which all incorporate the step mentioned above, are not anticipated by Nielsen.

AUS920010875US1

Page 5 of 17

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Notwithstanding the fact that the independent claims are not anticipated by Nielsen, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 9, 10, 20, 21, 31, 32, 42 and 43 are patentable over Nielsen in view of Kimmel et al.

It is well settled that in considering a Section 103 rejection, the subject matter of the claim "as a whole" must be considered and analyzed. In the analysis, it is necessary that the scope and contents of the prior art and differences between the art and the claimed invention be determined. *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1 (1966).

Kimmel et al. teach a method for parallel selection of URL's. In accordance with the teachings of Kimmel et al., when a Web page containing embedded links is displayed, a user may select a plurality of these embedded links for concurrent processing. Concurrent processing in this case includes concurrently displaying pages associated with the selected links in a plurality of respective browser windows; concurrently printing pages associated with the selected links; or concurrently downloading pages associated with the selected links.

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AUS920010875US1

Page 6 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

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As the references, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show or suggest the claimed invention, Applicants submit that all the pending claims in the Application are allowable. Hence, Applicants respectfully request allowance and passage to issue of the claims in the application.

Respectfully Submitted

By: 

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Attorney for Applicants
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AUS920010875US1

Page 7 of 17

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(VIII)

Claims Appendix

1. (Previously presented) A method of making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising the steps of:

displaying the Web document; and

upon user command, highlighting the links.
2. Canceled.
3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of having the links flash.
4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of displaying the links in a different color.
5. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of displaying the links using a larger font.
6. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of displaying the links using a different font.

AUS920010875US1

Page 8 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

7. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of emboldening the links.
8. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of enlarging the font used to display the links including the links target area.
9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein when a duplicated link is selected, its corresponding link in the Web document flashes or is emboldened or is displayed in a different color or is displayed using a different font or a larger font.
11. Canceled.
12. (Previously presented) A computer program product on a computer readable medium for making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising:

code means for displaying the Web document; and

AUS920010875US1

Page 9 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

code means for highlighting the links upon user command.

13. Canceled.

14. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for having the links flash.

15. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for displaying the links in a different color.

16. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for displaying the links using a larger font.

17. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for displaying the links using a different font.

18. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for emboldening the links.

19. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

code means for enlarging the font used to display the links including the links' target area.

20. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area.

21. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 20 wherein when a duplicated link is selected, its corresponding link in the Web document flashes or is emboldened or is displayed in a different color or is displayed using a different font or a larger font.

22. Canceled.

23. (Previously presented) An apparatus for making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising:

means for displaying the Web document; and

means for highlighting the links upon user command.

24. Canceled.

25. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for having the links flash.

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

26. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for displaying the links in a different color.
27. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for displaying the links using a larger font.
28. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for displaying the links using a different font.
29. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for emboldening the links.
30. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for enlarging the font used to display the links including the links target area.
31. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area.
32. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 31 wherein when a duplicated link is selected, the corresponding link in the Web document flashes or is emboldened or is

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

displayed in a different color or is displayed using a different font or a larger font.

33. Canceled.

34. (Previously presented) A computer system for making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising:

at least one memory device for storing code data; and

at least one processor for processing the code data for displaying the Web document and for highlighting the links upon user command.

35. Canceled.

36. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes having the links flash.

37. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes displaying the links in a different color.

38. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes displaying the links using a larger font.

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

39. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes displaying the links using a different font.
40. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes emboldening the links.
41. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes enlarging the font used to display the links including the links target area.
42. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area.
43. (Original) The computer system of Claim 42 wherein when a duplicated link is selected, its corresponding link in the Web document flashes or is emboldened or is displayed in a different color or is displayed using a different font or a larger font.
44. Canceled.
45. (Previously presented) A method of making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising the steps of:

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

displaying the Web document in a browser, the Web document having a plurality of links displayed each in a target area;

enabling user command to highlight the links by asserting an icon in the browser, the icon being able to toggle on to highlight the links and to toggle off to de-highlight the links; and

enlarging the plurality of links and the target areas upon user command to highlight the plurality of the links, the user command including toggling on the icon.

AUS920010875US1

Page 15 of 17

Friday, March 31, 2006 4:44 PM

Volel Emile, Esq. 512 306 0240

p. 35

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

(IX)

Evidence Appendix

None.

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AUS920010875US1

Page 16 of 17

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Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

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Related Proceedings Appendix

None.

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AUS920010875US1

Page 17 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of: :
Brown et al. :
Serial No: 09/998,386 : Before the Examiner:
 : Maikhanh Nguyen
Filed: 11/16/2001 : Group Art Unit: 2176
 :
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD : Confirmation No.: 7328
OF HIGHLIGHTING LINKS IN A :
WEB PAGE :

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT APPEAL BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is a Response to a Notice of Non-compliant Appeal
Brief dated March 06, 2006.

AUS920010875US1

Page 1 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

BRIEF FOR APPLICANTS - APPELLANTS

(I)

Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), the assignee.

(II)

Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no other appeals or interferences known to appellants, appellants' representative or assignee, which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(III)

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 3 - 10, 12, 14 - 21, 23, 25 - 32, 34, 36 - 43 and 45 have been finally rejected in an Office Action dated August 16, 2005. All the rejected claims are being appealed.

(IV)

Status of Amendment

No amendment was filed subsequent to the final rejection.

(V)

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The present invention, as claimed in independent claims 1 and 45 (method claims), 12 (a computer program product claim), 23 (an apparatus claim), 34 (a computer

AUS920010875US1

Page 2 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

system claim), allows a user to make links embedded in a Web page clearly recognizable. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, when a user is unable to clearly recognize links embedded in a Web document, the user may have the links highlighted by issuing a command (see page 10, lines 26, to page 11, line 9 and page 11, lines 17 - 23 see also Fig. 4 (i.e., highlight links button 420) and Fig. 6).

In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, when a user is unable to clearly recognize links embedded in a Web document, the user may have the links highlighted by issuing a command. In this case, the links are highlighted by duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in another area (page 11, lines 24 - 27 and Fig. 6).

Note that the step-plus functions of Claims 1 and 45 and the means-plus functions of Claim 23 are the process steps that occur when a user asserts highlight links button 420 and the processor of the system executes the processes in Figs. 6 and 7.

(VI)

Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

(1) Whether independent Claims 1, 12, 23, 34 and 45 were properly rejected under 102(b) as being anticipated by Nielsen, and (2) whether dependent Claims 9, 20, 31 and 42 were properly rejected under 103 as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of Kimmel et al.

AUS920010875US1

Page 3 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

(VII)

Arguments

Whether independent Claims 1, 12, 23, 34 and 45 were properly rejected under 102(b) as being anticipated by Nielsen

In considering a Section 102 rejection, all the elements of the claimed invention must be disclosed in a single item of prior art in the form literally defined in the claim. *Jamesbury Corp. v. Litton Indus. Products*, 736 F.2d 1556, 225 USPQ 253 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *Atlas Powder Co. v. Dupont*, 750 F.2d 1569, 224 USPQ 409 (Fed. Cir. 1984); *American Hospital Supply v. Travenol Labs.*, 745 F.2d 1, 223 USPQ 577 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Nielsen purports to provide a scheme to determine whether or not Web pages represented by links embedded in a displayed document are accessible before a user attempts to access the pages. To do so, Nielsen teaches that access to each Web page represented by an embedded link in a displayed Web document is automatically attempted as soon as the page is displayed. If there is no response within a certain period of time after an access has been attempted, then it is assumed that the Web page is inaccessible. Consequently, the appearance of the link is changed to alert the user that the Web page is inaccessible at the present time. The presumption is that an alerted user will not waste time attempting to access an inaccessible page.

But, Nielsen does not teach, show or suggest the step of highlighting links that are not easily identifiable in a displayed Web document upon user command as claimed.

AUS920010875US1

Page 4 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

The Examiner stated that Nielsen discloses such step in the following passage: "when the user selects a particular text link anchor with mouse 44, the browsing system responds by attempting to retrieve the page pointed to by the link anchor ... all of the link anchor 202 are shown as underlined text; col. 3, lines 41 - 48" (see first paragraph on page 3 of the Office Action).

As far as Applicants can understand, the quoted passage merely states that when a link is asserted, an attempt is made to access the Web page referred to by the link. This is generally how one accesses a Web page from an embedded link in a displayed document.

The quoted passage further states that links in a displayed web document are displayed as underlined text. This is one of the customary manners of displaying embedded links in a document.

Applicants do not see how the teachings in the quoted passage are going to help a user who has problems identifying links that are embedded in a displayed document from regular underlined passages in the document, for example. By contrast, the present invention allows a user to issue a command and all the embedded links in the document are highlighted allowing the user to distinguish the links from regular underlined passages in the document.

Hence, Applicants submit that the independent claims (i.e., Claims 1, 12, 23, 34 and 4b), as well as their dependent claims, which all incorporate the step mentioned above, are not anticipated by Nielsen.

AUS920010875US1

Page 5 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

whether dependent Claims 9, 20, 31 and 42 were properly rejected under 103 as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of Kimmel et al.

Notwithstanding the fact that the independent claims are not anticipated by Nielsen, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 9, 10, 20, 21, 31, 32, 42 and 43 are patentable over Nielsen in view of Kimmel et al.

It is well settled that in considering a Section §103 rejection, the subject matter of the claim "as a whole" must be considered and analyzed. In the analysis, it is necessary that the scope and contents of the prior art and differences between the art and the claimed invention be determined. *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1 (1966).

Kimmel et al. teach a method for parallel selection of URL's. In accordance with the teachings of Kimmel et al., when a Web page containing embedded links is displayed, a user may select a plurality of these embedded links for concurrent processing. Concurrent processing in this case includes concurrently displaying pages associated with the selected links in a plurality of respective browser windows; concurrently printing pages associated with the selected links; or concurrently downloading pages associated with the selected links.

However, Kimmel et al. do not teach the step of duplicating links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area as claimed by the Examiner.

Thus, even if Nielsen were to teach the steps alleged by the Examiner, combining the teachings of Nielsen with those of Kimmel et al., would not teach the limitations in Claim 9, for example. Since Claims 20, 31 and 42 include

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

the limitations of Claim 9, Applicants submit that they, along with their dependent claims, should be allowable as well.

As the references, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show or suggest the claimed invention, Applicants submit that all the pending claims in the Application are allowable. Hence, Applicants respectfully request allowance and passage to issue of the claims in the application.

Respectfully Submitted

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AUS920010875US1

Page 7 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

(VIII)

Claims Appendix

1. (Previously presented) A method of making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising the steps of:

displaying the Web document; and

upon user command, highlighting the links.
2. Canceled.
3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of having the links flash.
4. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of displaying the links in a different color.
5. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of displaying the links using a larger font.
6. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of displaying the links using a different font.

AUS920010875US1

Page 8 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

7. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of emboldening the links.
8. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of enlarging the font used to display the links including the links target area.
9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein highlighting the links includes the step of duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein when a duplicated link is selected, its corresponding link in the Web document flashes or is emboldened or is displayed in a different color or is displayed using a different font or a larger font.
11. Canceled.
12. (Previously presented) A computer program product on a computer readable medium for making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising:

code means for displaying the Web document; and

AUS920010875US1

Page 9 of 17

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

code means for highlighting the links upon user command.

13. Canceled.

14. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for having the links flash.

15. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for displaying the links in a different color.

16. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for displaying the links using a larger font.

17. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for displaying the links using a different font.

18. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for emboldening the links.

19. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

code means for enlarging the font used to display the links including the links' target area.

20. (Previously presented) The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the highlighting code means includes code means for duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area.

21. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 20 wherein when a duplicated link is selected, its corresponding link in the Web document flashes or is emboldened or is displayed in a different color or is displayed using a different font or a larger font.

22. Canceled.

23. (Previously presented) An apparatus for making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising:

means for displaying the Web document; and

means for highlighting the links upon user command.

24. Canceled.

25. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for having the links flash.

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

26. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for displaying the links in a different color.
27. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for displaying the links using a larger font.
28. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for displaying the links using a different font.
29. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for emboldening the links.
30. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for enlarging the font used to display the links including the links target area.
31. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the highlighting means includes means for duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area.
32. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 31 wherein when a duplicated link is selected, the corresponding link in the Web document flashes or is emboldened or is

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

displayed in a different color or is displayed using a different font or a larger font.

33. Canceled.

34. (Previously presented) A computer system for making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising:

at least one memory device for storing code data; and

at least one processor for processing the code data for displaying the Web document and for highlighting the links upon user command.

35. Canceled.

36. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes having the links flash.

37. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes displaying the links in a different color.

38. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes displaying the links using a larger font.

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

39. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes displaying the links using a different font.
40. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes emboldening the links.
41. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes enlarging the font used to display the links including the links target area.
42. (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein highlighting the links includes duplicating the links and displaying the duplicated links in a different area.
43. (Original) The computer system of Claim 42 wherein when a duplicated link is selected, its corresponding link in the Web document flashes or is emboldened or is displayed in a different color or is displayed using a different font or a larger font.
44. Canceled.
45. (Previously presented) A method of making links that are not easily identified in a displayed Web document by a user to be clearly recognizable comprising the steps of:

AUS920010875US1

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliance Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

displaying the Web document in a browser, the Web document having a plurality of links displayed each in a target area;

enabling user command to highlight the links by asserting an icon in the browser, the icon being able to toggle on to highlight the links and to toggle off to de-highlight the links; and

enlarging the plurality of links and the target areas upon user command to highlight the plurality of the links, the user command including toggling on the icon.

AUS920010875US1

Page 15 of 17

Friday, March 31, 2006 4:44 PM

Volel Emilio, Esq. 512 306 0240

p. 52

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

(IX)

Evidence Appendix

None.

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AUS920010875US1

Page 16 of 17

Friday, March 31, 2006 4:44 PM

Volel Emile, Esq. 512 306 0240

p.53

Appl. No. 09/998,386

Response to Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated 03/31/2006

Reply to Office Action of 03/06/2006

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Related Proceedings Appendix

None.

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AUS920010875US1

Page 17 of 17

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